ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a public key certificate using system, a template which serves as person identification data of a person requesting a public key certificate is obtained from a person identification certificate of the person, a person authentication is executed by comparing sampling information of the person against the template, and a public key certificate for the person is issued by a certificate authority on condition that the person authentication is established, thus reducing the load on the certificate authority for person authentication. The public key certificate issued to the user is deleted upon completion of a processing session involving use of the public key certificate, restricting the use of the public key certificate to the particular processing session.